

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to reflect the national stage status.

In addition, the claims have been amended to remove the multiple dependencies to reduce the PTO filing fee.

Further, claim 1 has been amended to better protect the invention, which amendment is supported in the specification at page 5, lines 19-20. Claim 13 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Favorable action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Atsushi AKAO et al.

By Warren M. Cheek, Jr.
Warren M. Cheek, Jr.
Registration No. 33,367
Attorney for Applicants

WMC/abm
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
February 11, 2005